regularisation of pre-enactment encroachments.

"Decline in the Tiger Population"

3591. DR. SANJAY SINH : Will the MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been an alarming decline in the Tiger population particularly in the "Tiger Re-reserves" in several States;

(b) if so, the reason therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there has been a perceptible drop in the population of Leopards in Tamil Nadu and West Bengal; and

(d) if so, what corrective steps Government propose to take in the matter.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The last All India Tiger/Leopard Census was carried out in 1989 and next is due in 1993. The actual position will be revealed only after the census figures of 1993 are received.

(d) Does not arise.

"Ecology Parks in Coastal Areas"

3592. DR. SANJAYA SINH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether town planning experts have suggested the setting up of model ecology parks in Coastal areas in the country, as per the news item entitled "Ecology Parks in Coastal areas mooted" which appeared in the Hindustan Times dated 19th February, 1993;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take in the matter ?

5—153 RSS/94

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) :

(a) and (b) The Institute of Town Planners in their 41st Seminar on Development and Management of coastal areas have suggested in the draft recommendations setting up of model ecology parks in the coastal areas. However, details etc. have not been given in their draft recommendations. The recommendations have not been received in this Ministry.

(c) The suggestions of the Institute of Town Planners as and when received would be forwarded to the concerned State Governments and Union Territory Administrations, in consultation with the Ministry of Urban Development, for their consideration.

"Action Plan for the Himaalyas"

3593. DR. SANJAYA SINH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS be pleased to State :

(a) whether Government propose to a new action plan for the Himalayas; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) :

(a) The Govind Ballabh Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development, an autonomous organisation of the Ministry of Environment & Forests have prepared an Action Plan or the Himalaya.

(b) The salient features of the Action Plan are given below :

—Geological instability interacting with a complex of problems manifest fragility to the Himalayan ecosystem.

—Data on problems like denudation, siltation, hydrological imbalances and floods suffer from the drawbacks, precision and the regional quantifications are found to be quite low.

—Positive points of traditional resource production and use systems needs

strengthening through science and technology inputs.

—The mountain trees are more productive than others, the existence of a rich tree germplasm must be recognised and realized for future research and development.

—All the partners in the development process should review their presently common role and change it in the direction of desirability.

—It is difficult for the people to come to terms with the ecological approach immediately until we change the educational pattern.

—Lack of hydrological information and technology for designing suitable intake structures and water harvesting and supply systems.

—Traditional systems conceived earlier as weak are now being considered to represent an "Advance Sustainable Technology" in crop husbandry sector.

—Governmental efforts should be strengthened to take up the task of land consolidation on priority.

—Legal provision of private ownership should not restrict land use for the benefit of people.

—Traditional systems should not be disrupted unless government interventions are found superior to the indigenous technologies.

—Cooperative marketing would be more useful for promoting trade in inaccessible areas of high hills.

—A long-term horticultural development plan should be prepared, incorporating a crop diversification programme.

—Conservation strategies must address to the needs of conservation for posterity but, at the same time, should not neglect the present needs of the people. Conservation of cultivated crops is a neglected subject.

—Educational institutions should be provided financial support for eco-regeneration activities involving students to infuse ethos of conservation.

—Tourism be declared an industry throughout the Himalayan region so that various benefits of establishing an industry in the industrially backward area can be reaped by those who may like to invest in this venture.

—Wild fruits traditionally used to supplement diets remain unexploited for their economic values. Technology for the extraction of their active component should be developed.

"Forest Land given to Private Parties for development in Madhya Pradesh"

3594. SHRIMATI SATYA BAHIN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) how much forest land has been given to private parties for development in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) what is the revenue collected on it; and

(c) what is the general policy and criterion for such grant ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) No proposal for diversion of forest land for development purposes by private parties in Madhya Pradesh, has been approved by the Central Government under the forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. However, diversions of forest land for mining purposes have been approved under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in respect of proposals of private parties received through the State Government of Madhya Pradesh.

(b) No revenue is collected by the Central Government while according approval to the State Government for diversion of forest land under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. However, condition of compensatory afforestation, if applicable, is stipulated by the Central Government while according approval to proposals of the State Government.